

REMARKS

Claims 3-4 have been canceled. New claims 6-15 have been added. Thus, claims 1-2 and 5-15 are now pending in the application. Reconsideration is requested.

Claims 1-3 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite. Claim 3 has been canceled. Applicants have amended claims 1 and 2 as noted above to address the antecedent issues identified by the Examiner. Withdrawal of the Section 112 rejection is requested.

Claims 1-5 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Lewis in view of Tachibana. Claims 1 and 5 have been amended to distinguish over the cited prior art and are believed to be in condition for favorable action and allowance.

Turning first to claim 1, Applicants have amended the claim to recite that the functional expansion module supports an expansion user interface. When the functional expansion module is first installed in a host device, an application supported by the host device is identified that is controllable by the expansion user interface. A determination is then made of vocabulary data which defines user interface command correspondence between expansion user interface commands and application commands which designate software actions to be performed by that application. The vocabulary data is then stored in the host device for access at a subsequent installation of the functional expansion module so as to obviate the need to subsequently perform the operations which determine the vocabulary for that functional expansion module.

The Examiner has conceded that Lewis fails to teach the recognition and configuration storing features. While Tachibana teaches a registry for storing information supporting interconnection of a module to a host, Tachibana fails to teach or suggest the module supporting

an expanded user interface and the determination of vocabulary data which defines user interface command correspondence between expansion user interface commands and application commands which designate software actions to be performed by that application on the host. Claim 1 accordingly defines over the cited prior art.

With respect to claim 5, the cited prior art fails to teach or suggest the expansion module supporting an expansion user interface and the host including tables of correspondence between the application and the installed function-expanding module defining user interface command correspondence between expansion user interface commands and application commands which designate software actions to be performed by the application.

New claims 6-15 have been added and are also asserted to define over the cited prior art at least for reasons relating to the claimed correspondence for the module supported user interface and the host application user interface.

In view of the foregoing, it is believed that this application is in condition for allowance, and such a Notice is respectfully requested.

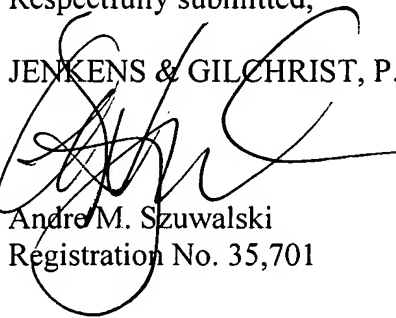
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Respectfully submitted,

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